Polio in Bihar

†2035. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 64 cases of polio came to light in the country in the year 2005 and out of which 30 were from Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that polio virus spread to Mumbai, Punjab, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal from Bihar in the year 2004; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking for paying special attention to Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The virus spread from Bihar to Uttar Pradesh and Nepal in 2004 and during 2005, to Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai, Punjab, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Nepal.

(c) The steps taken include:

(1) Using various specific vaccines (monovalant vaccines) to stop circulation of the specific type of polio virus.

(2) Initiation of special moves to track newborns to immunize them.

(3) Initiation of enhanced efforts to immunize children in transit and routine immunization coverage to reach each and every child.

(4) Increased manpower deployment in the form of Rapid Response Team to support planning, implementation and monitoring of polio campaigns.

Dietary supplements and medical devices under Drugs and Cosmetics Act

2036. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions to bring dietary supplements and medical devices under the purview of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, for effective monitoring of their quality and prices; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of any action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The report of the Expert Committee on Comprehensive Examination of Drug Regulatory Issues, including the Problem of Spurious Drugs (Mashelkar Committee), had recommended that there is need to have separate regulation defining dietary supplements, laying criteria of permissible limit of ingredients and a procedure of evaluation of safety and efficacy, information to consumers and provisions related to their advertisements. It was also recommended that these products should be regulated under PFA or any other emergent mechanism/infrastructure. Products that claim or are intended to diagnose, cure, prevent or treat a disease are to be classified as drugs as is the current rule, (para 7.11 to 7.1.19 of the said report) Central Committee on food standards (CCFS) has recommended that products marketed as dietary supplements belonging to certain specified categories need to be considered under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

As regards medical devices, the suggestion of Mashelkar Committee was to specifically define them under Section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and to create a specific medical devices division for their regulation. The Committee has also recommended for an appropriate regulatory mechanism to be set up under Central Drug Authority for certification, quality assurance and post marketing surveillance of imported as well as locally made medical devices. A Committee under DDG(M) has been to go into these recommendations and suggest appropriate legislation. In the mean time 10 sterile medical devices which are of critical nature, have been notified. By the Government under Section 3(b)(iv) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in order to ensure appropriate regulation over their import and manufacture.

Dengue and other communicable diseases

†2037. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which had been highly afflicted more with dengue, encephalitis and malaria alongwith the number of persons suffered and died due to these diseases in the year 2005;

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